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## The Octofoil, February 1956

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

Volume 10  
Number 9

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

One Year \$1.50  
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Livingston, N. J., P.O. Box 66

267

February, 1956

## The 1956 Hotel Site Is Selected

### New York Chapter News

By IRV FEINBERG

Each time we of the New York Chapter meet we uncover noteworthy comments that we feel are pertinent towards the makings of a good healthy meeting. For example the following facts were noted.

1—Al Bruchac told us that the next 60th Infantry Reunion is scheduled for May 19th, 1956 at the Chamber Restaurant in Long Island City, New York. Al tells us that he has some grand supprises for this affair and wants all former 60th lads to attend if possible.

2—Dan Quinn, the new New York Prez presided at the first meeting and needless to say he did a superb job, an as usual held the floor and delivered his orations in fine style.

3—John L. Sullivan, Louis Escobar, Jerry Shapiro and Tom Flynn were recent visitors at the V.A. Hospital in the Bronx. All the above lads stopped in to say "HY" to John Duncan. John is in Ward 3C at the Kingsbridge General Hospital in the Bronx.

4—Company A of the 47th Infantry is planning to hold a reunion very shortly. News of this affair will be available in the next issue of the Octofoil. Meanwhile all you A Boys watch this item. Might be a good idea to spread the gospel to your friends.

5—Harold Jaffe, formerly of the 2nd Battalion of the 47th Infantry would like to know the address of Al Lloyd formerly of G. Co. 47th. Any information please forward to the Octofoil.

6—George Stein tells us that he is no longer at the old site, he has moved to 3 Robert Street, Hicksville, L. I., and would like to hear from his old friends.

The February meeting of the New York Chapter brought forth the following items. After discussion of sundry business the following Committees were appointed. Welfare: Jerry Shapiro, Irv Feinberg and Mr. McInerney. Hospitality: Vince Iannucci (47) George Stegner (39) Al Bruchac (60) and Stan Cohen (Sp:Troops). Membership: Langer. Publicity, Irv Feinberg. Dance: Stan Cohen.

It was decided to have each regiment conduct one meeting, therefore the 60th Infantry will be the host regiment at the March 2nd Meeting. Al Bruchac will be chairman.

January notes. Irv Feinberg reporting...Dan Robinson of 223-30 112th Ave., Queen Village, N. Y., really started things rolling the right way with the New York Chapter building fund. Dan contributed \$10.00 as a boster bonus. Dan by the way would like to hear from any of the lads of the 3rd Battalion Headquarters of the 39th Infantry.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Caladaro

have real night night time now they have an addition to the family a boy named Joseph. Call Polivy and his pretty frau have also added another chapter of legal history in the form of a new son...

Bill Reicker formerly of Division Headquarters recently showed up at a New York meeting and had an excellent talkathon with his old buddies. Bill is convinced that he should have showed up a long time ago, cause he sure has a lot to catch up on.

Dick O'Connor formerly of the 84th F.A. Bn. (Battery Battery B makes a promise. If any of the guys of his old battery would write Dick will answer.

Geo Osika and old Medic of the 60th Infantry's 1st Battalion has now set up housekeeping at Millbrook, N. Y.

George Merz, 47th Infantry, 3rd Battalion was recently interviewed as a typical Westinghouse employee on strike in an interview with a New York Times reporter. The story was printed on Dec. 23rd. George and his wife a former English Wren now have a small squad of their own. SIX Kids...

Col. Edwin H. Randle recently had an article printed in the December issue of the American Legion Magazine titled, "The End of Ernie Pyle". The Ninth also received some good notices in this article.

Larry Greenman is now in Van Nuys, California recovering from his illness. We of the New York Chapter wish you GODS speed to health...

### Last Call

Every mailing out of this office brings the same sad news marked with the words, "DECEASED". The following men have answered the last call.

Joseph F. Kelly (formerly of the 39th Infantry) of 1054 Kelly Drive, York Pennsylvania. Horatio S. Fowler former T/4 of Division Headquarters Company 429 No. Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York.

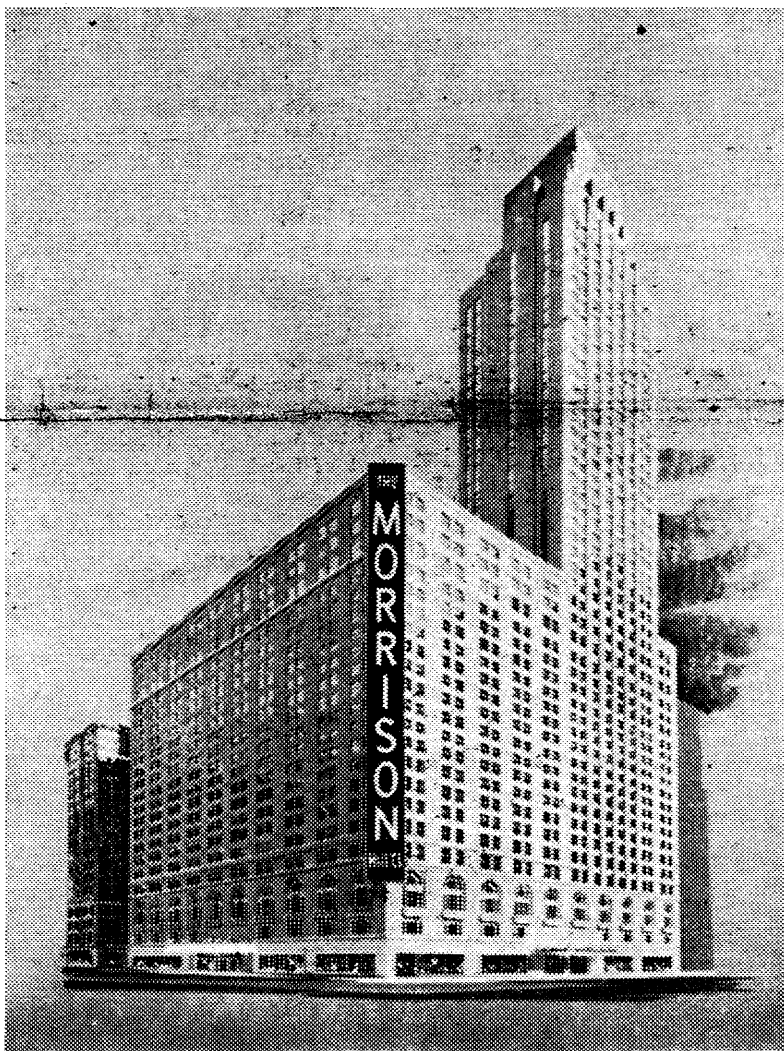
Howard L. Ramsey of Smithfield Pennsylvania (899th T. D.). Mr. Walter H. Ramsey his dad wrote us the following details. "Dear Sir, This is to inform you that on the morning of November 5th, 1955 'bout 5 A.M., Howard L. Ramsey was riding with a driver hauling coal on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Near the Breezewood outer section, the driver saw a car cross the dividing line and head towards the truck. The truck driver then tried to avoid the car and swerved into the embankment. The crash upset the load and the trailer was tossed like a cork. During this turning,

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### Hotel Morrison Is Chosen

We have just received the final word from the Chicago Chapter that after four hectic weekends of searching and evaluating they have selected the Hotel Morrison to be the site of the 1956 Convention.

The Chicago Reunion Committee have named the following three days, July 26, July 27 and July 28th, 1956 as date line reunion. The Morrison hotel for those non-Chicagoans is located on Madison Ave. near Clark and Madison Street. Madison Street is a principle North and South dividing artery of Chicago. Therefore, by stopping at the Morrison



The Morrison is a new hotel, one of the latest ones to be built in the city of Chicago. The Morrison has ultra modern plumbing ice water taps in all of the rooms and many other features. The piece de resistance is the fact that the management finally consented to give the Ninth Division Association the famous Terrace Casino for our banquet. This one affair we assure our members will in itself be the highlight of the Convention. Anyone who has listened to a radio or watched a Television show of stature knows that most of these programs have originated from this famous room. The Terrace Casino is tiered almost like a European opera house and the lighting is something that will make you relax and send you into another world.

The management has provided us with very exceptional and convenient space for the registration desk. This desk will be located right above the lobby on the second floor and it will be adjacent to the banquet rooms. They have made available all the meeting rooms we need and what is more important they are all AIR-CONDITIONED. This goes for all the rooms. We are only repeating ourselves because we want to make sure you all understand this vital fact.

There are a special group of rooms especially adapted for those CP setups that have become so very popular of late. We even needed a couple of suites to accommodate our guest speakers.

#### Family Plan

They have a family plan whereby children under twelve are billeted free of charge. Nice deal for the old man who is worried about bringing the kids along.

You can drive your car in Chicago without any fear of getting fouled up in diagonal streets or the like, all the streets are numbered starting from the street your hotel is located on.

Well so much for the physical aspects, if we have missed anything will some of you experienced convention handlers speak up now, while we still can rectify any inadequacy that may exist. Don't wait until you hit the convention and that start to sound off! Now is the time, we welcome any and all advice. Our sole aim is to do

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you are right in the heart of downtown Chicago.

You need only walk out of the frontdoor and you are in the very heart of Chicago, the large stores, night clubs, theatres and restaurants of all types. Editorial note: And they serve good food...

You are within five minutes of finest beaches in the mid-west. Think of it, five minutes and you can swim to your hearts content. The little women, can take the kids down to the beach while the old man sweats it out in a nice cool atmosphere of heated battles and days gone by...

Ten minutes away is the famous Lincoln Park with a tremendous zoo. The very same zoo that is seen on Television. Besides the zoo are the Botanical Gardens, Aquarium and the Amusement park. Just about five minutes away is the famous Art Institute, the million dollar Buckingham Fountain, Soldiers Field, The Shedd Aquarium, Marshall Field Museum and the Adler Planetarium.

This type of description could go on endlessly, but let us suffice

to say that your plunk in the middle of everything that is important in the Capital of the Midwest.

#### The Morrison

Specifically the Hotel Morrison was selected for one very excellent reason. The management has guaranteed AIR CONDITIONING FOR ALL. This is one detail that the Chicago gang has hollered for constantly and they wanted to be certain of this one large detail.

#### Sme Physical Facts...

The Morrison according to reports has everything in AIR-CONDITIONING that the Shoreham had, with the popular prices that we all had in Philadelphia. The Coffee Shoppe is popular priced. The hotel bar we have been assured will not gouge you — or draw your last buck then squeeze you for a nickel. You can also roam the premises without having to wear a dress coat. The dining room is spacious and will satisfy the most finicky appetite. There are plenty of good elevators and popular priced rooms and room service.

## THE OCTOFOIL

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Extract from the certificate of incorporation of the Ninth Infantry Division Association: This Association is formed by the officers and men of the Ninth Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an ever lasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to members and former members of the Division.

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## It Was A Couple of Months After Xmas

The sound of Yuletide greetings have long since faded away in the distance, but the echoes of good deeds live on forever and ever. The Dec. 23rd issue of the Ninth Division News just bubbles over with stories that make an old veteran sit up with pride.

Here for example are excerpts of what we mean; when we refer to Christmas in Germany. "Falcon Second Battalion Set Christmas Feast For Orphan Children". The story tells about the one hundred children from the Volka Refugee Camp in Neurnberg who were entertained at dinner and given a Christmas party by the men of the 39th Infantry Regiment on Christmas day. Or, "In true Go-Devil fashion units of the 60th Infantry Regiment", or, "Party Cheer Needy. St. Nicholas in New Ulm was given an assist by the enlisted men of Nelson Barracks who brought joy to the hearts and a sparkle to the eyes of about 275 underprivileged children." Not only the Infantry but the Special Troops as well, for example, "15th Engineers give party for Orphans. The by line is titled: FUERTH: Each year the 15th Engineer Battalion sponsors a Christmas party for either a German orphanage or a refugee camp. This year the 15th Engineer Battalion will play host to the children of Camp Schainef. The party is to held one week before Christmas and will be for children between the ages of four to ten years of age. They will be given warm clothing and toys."

The above excerpts taken from the Ninth Division News are examples of what the Ninth Division is doing to further the cause of peace in a world in which kind deeds are often met with suspicion and distrust.

Now what of the future of the Ninth in Germany? What role will they play to preserve these kind deeds.

We can only quote what we read. We have learned recently that the Ninth is scheduled for "Gyroscope". They are returning to the states. We have also learned via the December 16th issue of the Ninth Division News that the Ninth will be based at Fort Carson, Colorado.

The next question to be answered is, what happens to the resolution that was passed at our last convention admitting the men of the Ninth Division into our organization.

This is a question that we would like our members to think about and try to answer at our next convention. This is a vital question and it will play a very important part in the life line of our organization.

We have talked about the new and the old Ninth, however, there is one thing we of the old Ninth can remember; the way the old Ninth made a military impres-

## Pushing Back the Years

The following data is a continuation of the Ninth Division's battle route during November 1944.

On 5 November Generals Eisenhower and Bradley paid General Craig a visit at the division command post (BUETGENBACH). Even as General Eisenhower was alighting from his car into the mud that was Buetgenbach's streets, the Ninth was moving out. The Ninth replaced the 4th Div. and took up the defensive position under V Corps control. The mighty Ninth now had its big problem of keeping the men warm and keeping the well known trenchfoot and frostbite down to the minimum.

On 8 November came the first snowfall and along with that came the big question of "who won"?

The question was asked more in the rear areas, for it was 1944 and it was national election day back in the good old U.S.A. Wherever there was a radio, or courier, that's where several inquisitive Joes gathered.

To the contrary, presidential elections were not on the minds of men on patrol in the snow. Those individuals were glad when November 10th arrived and combat teams of the 99th Infantry Division began relieving the Ninth. By the 24th, the last of the Ninth Division was relieved and proceeded back to Camp Elsenborn rest area by way of Bullingen. For the remainder of November, the Ninth went into Corps reserve... with emphasis on training in new tactical methods.

Let us not forget the 47th CT who remained under VII Corps control while the Ninth became part of the V Corps on 5 November.

The 47th on the 10th of November was attached to the 1st Infantry Division and preparations were made to launch an offensive in the near future.

The well calculated offensive which began on November 16, 1944

was based upon the principal of the St Lo breakthrough. It was preceded by Operation Q "the largest scale close support effort ever flown by Allied Air forces". As at St Lo, the weather was bad for several days. The 11th passed, the 12th, 13th and 14th, flying was out of the question. Then came November 15th and the drive could wait no longer. Air support was ordered for the following day, rain or shine, clouds or visibility zero .. fog or snow .. Infantry was to have attacked on the 15th and was informed that it would jump off twenty four hours later.

At 11:45 AM a 5,000 plane force of AAF and RAF began roaring through breaks in the sky to begin one of the most devastating bombardments of modern times. Duren, Juelich, Eschweiler, Weisweiler, Durwiss, Heinsburg and Heflath were recipients of over twenty million pounds of aerial bombs.

North of the 47th CT forward lay the Eschweiler-Weisweiler regions. To the immediate front was the battered enemy strongpoint of Gressenich. Immediate mission of the regiment was to seize this village and then push on to the area of Nothberg and Huechein which is south of Weisweiler on the river Inde.

By night fall the 1st Battalion 47th CT was inside the lower rim of Gressenich and began a wicked house to house fight for possession of the town. Company "K" succeeded in cutting the road leading northeast of, and about 500 yards from Gressenich, and had placed a roadblock astride the road to halt any German attempt at escape or reinforcement.

Recovering completely by evening from his early morning shock, the enemy waged a battle which was to be typical of his stubborn defensive for the remainder of November. At dusk of November 16th it was clear that Gressenich had been taken room by room.

Rain fell again on the 17th and fell heavily and steadily. The

muddy sea beneath the feet of attacking doughboys gave little support for men and less for the armor. By 10:30 AM Gressenich was taken and cleared.

The scheme of attack now centered around the 1st Battalion's assaulting and capturing hills 167 and 187, which dominated the area south of Weisweiler. The 3d Battalion was to advance to hill 232 preparatory to its attack against the village of Bovenber. For several days the 1st Battalion battled against these enemy held heights.

While the 1st battalion was earning itself a Distinguished Unit Citation in the hills near Hamich, the 3d Battalion launched a drive from hill 232 through the dense wooded region to its front and pointed toward Bovenberg. The 3d Battalion came to within 300 yards of its objective when the doughboys found themselves trapped by direct flanking fire from either side and a murderous stream of small arms from the front, at the same time a hitherto silent enemy artillery opened up, and with the aid of accurate German mortars made the woods a living inferno. The roads and trails were blocked by interdicting fire and paths of advance or escape narrowed as tree bursts flamed down to form obstacles everywhere.

Casualties suffered by the badly hit 3d Battalion were greater for November 21st than the entire Regiment had suffered on any one day of previous action. In order to halt this slaughter, the 1st Division ordered them to delay any further attacks and consolidate until the situation changed.

By the 20th the RAIDERS had reached positions one-half mile from the Aachen-Stolberg-Dueren railroad along a two-mile long front and faced Nothberg and Huechein. They had contacted the 104th Division on their left flank. The 21st did not see any advances worthy of mention, although November 22nd found the 1st Battalion in possession of Hills 187 and 167. Now Colonel Smythe brought up his reserve 2d Battalion for an all-out drive. It was on the 22nd as well that the plan for the 47th to cross the River Inde and advance beyond was changed. Instead, the combat team was to halt at its final objective.

The refreshed Raider 2d Battalion jumped off from the civility of Schevenhuetten on the morning of November 23rd and chopped forward along a route which lead through Gressenich, Hastenrath, Volkenrath and against stiff opposition in the form of die-hard infantry fire to reach, capture and push through to the eastern edge of Nothberg. Here it was halted by strong defenses. After capturing Nothberg, the 2nd was to advance through Huechein, clear resistance there and then forward on to take the second regimental objective, Wilhelmshoehe. To aid in this attack, the 1st Battalion moved to Rohl where it prepared to assist the 2nd Battalion the following day.

The 2d Battalion of the 47th was combined with the 32d Armored Battalion of the 3d Armored Division to form a special task force. Perched upon 3d Armored tanks the 2d Battalion rode through the woods, into the open and toward the western edge of Heucheln. Almost immediately the armor was hit by heavy anti-tank fire and forced to withdraw. The 2d Battalion dismounted and began to advance on foot. German defenders

(Continued on page 4)

## New England Chapter News

The February meeting of the New England Chapter is scheduled for February 25 at the YD Club, 200 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. The Feature event of the meeting will be showing of "Combat Films." These are U.S. Signal Corps Combat films depicting various Infantry outfits in action and among the units represented is the Ninth Infantry Division. We, who have seen the film, recommend it and if we were movie critics would award this film 4 stars. Worcester, Massachusetts will be the site of the March New England Meeting.

### G. Co., 47th Inf.

Your editor has recently learned that one of our own, former Sgt. John Duncan an X G Co. 47th Infantryman is now at the Veterans Hospital at Kingsbridge Road in the Bronx. All former friends of "Sonny Duncan" are requested to visit him in Ward 3 C. As a matter of fact even if you weren't a friend of his and your in the neighborhood, why not stop in and say Hello?

sion on the old Germans. The new Ninth can now talk about the peaceful impression they made on the new Germans.

New or old we are all proud of the Octofoil. Let us all try to keep it this way for many a Christmas to come forever and ever if this is possible.

## Western Pennsylvania Chapter

by Bill Palady

1956 was ushered in by the men and women of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter with a tres gay New Year's eve celebration held at Paul Wolf's Tavern in McKeesport, Pa. Among those attending this affair were; Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bish, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Dennison, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gault, Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Dominick, Mr. and Mrs. Ercole DePasqua, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wolf, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Palady.

From the noise and clamor that arose we are certain that all those who attended had a very good time. The Chapter held it's first meeting of the year on January 18th and as usual we had an excellent attendance record. Among the items discussed was a proposal to hold another affair sometime in April.

We are very pleased to report that we have located two new members they are Robert Buck of Verona and Peter Timko of Mongehala. We are sure and certain that if others just stop around and say "Hello" they too will join our little group.



## Mail Bag

Mail Bag is right, the Ninth Division Mail box at this time of year bulges at the seams. So much so that at times when the mail is picked up, one hardly knows where to start. Therefore, let's print it as we hit it...

Clinton C. Geirser (Company H, 39th Inf.) wants all his friends to know that he has a new mailing address: It is now 851 Sibbey Road, Toledo 7, Ohio.

Paul Plunkett of 52 E. Lynn St., Columbus, Ohio, (47th Inf.) tells us that he recently took a trip to New York City to visit with his son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. This was the first chance he had spend with his new grandson born, Oct. 18th.

George Whitney (Division Headquarters) sends his best sunny regards from 603 South Palmetto Ave., Daytona Beach, Florida. George moved down Florida way last October 20th and believe me George, we all wish we could help you pass away some sunny hours. All one has to do is to look out of the window. It is raining, snowing and sleeting, can't make up it's mind weatherwise do we have to talk any more. Save a bed!

Ernest Irion of 3608-5th Ave. North, Great Falls, Montana tells us that he hopes he can make the convention in Chicago this year. Ernest had received a Christmas card from Julius Iannotti and we were informed that it is his fondest desire to meet up with the Div. Art'y Medics from the 60th F.A. Ernest recently made a trip down thru Idaho, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon and that he had a heck of a wonderful time. Ernest is still in the construction business but the bad weather has cut into work schedules and he is left with a lot of spare time on his hands.

Bill Paady of 322-31st Street, McKeesport, Pa., sends us a note on the latest gossip about the Quartermaster Company.

Had the good luck to hear from many of the old buddies. Xmas cards received from—Harry Orenstein, Sal Vinci, Andy Sinare, J. G. McCormick, Marvin Balthaser, John Mess, Vincent Amore, Mike Dembitsky, George Kovalak, Joseph Willis, LeRoy Dreifus, Alan Webster, Irving Lamphear, Steve Pitsilos, John Culley, J. C. Stone, Gene Berasi, Robert Elmes, John Prehodick, Nick Saggio, Nick Penardo, and Howard Reisfeilder, Frank Mangini, and Tom Cowell. Reisfeilder moved to Robert St., not far from where he was. Nick Penardo says that Tony Tullio and his family payed him a visit recently. Nick just moved into his new home. The stork left a baby boy about four months ago to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Elms their first boy they have two girls, congratulations Robert. John Culley moved also, to Valley Stream, L. I. Joe Willis says that he will try to make the ReUnion come next July. I'll buy that Joe and here's hoping that many of you fellows can make it to Chicago come July.

Thomas O. Nickelson of 5000 Abbott Ave. N., Minneapolis 22, Minn. tells us that this is his new address and he like his house very much.

Joseph S. Filipowicz of the 60th F.A. Battery C, informs the Octofoil readers that on January 9, Jeffrey Filipowicz arrived bouncing in at a hefty 7 lbs. and 14 oz..

Bob Jackson of 68 A Newark Way, Maplewood 2, N. J., sends a note telling us that he had bought

a new house in Maplewood and he and Cynthia May who is eleven months old, Joanne who is 9 and Michael who is 4 are having themselves quite a ball in the suburbs.

George Kovalak (9th Q.M.) of 429 McCrea Ave., Donora, Pennsylvania tells us, "I enjoy reading the Octofoil very much as it brings me up to date on the news of what some of my former buddies are doing these days. I recently attended a meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter and I plan to attend all future meetings that will be held, if possible. It's like ol' times seeing all the fellows getting together and making plans for the future. Its nice that these former members can get together once a month. I recommend to all former and present members of the now famous "9th Infantry Division", to join this great organization of ours. Hand in hand, we can make this year's slogan read, "Ninth Infantry Division Association Membership Drive"... Every member signs a new member. Incidentally, I would like to hear from some of the ol' members of the 9th Quartermaster Company. My new address is George Kovalak, 429 McCrea Ave., Donora, Penn. The reason for the change is obvious. I recently purchased a new home. I am very happily married and have two daughters, Mary Louise who is eight and Carol Ann who is two.

Someone sent us a note full of interesting news about 39 Inf. Lads and did not sign his name... So to keep you informed here goes... "Hi, just a few lines to let you all know that all is well at this pub tent. We have three future G.I.'s and that looks like it for a while. Also still in the trucking business and keep quite busy. Was up to Buffalo this year and spent a few days with Pat Solmaine former M and D Company member and we had a fine time. I also took in the sights at Niagara Falls and Canada. I am still trying to get up to see Tom Orband at Binghamton. Leo Burdek called and all seems well with him. He is also a former M Company man. Leo has his diggings in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Artie Clark of M Company bought a nice home in Packanack, N. J. Ran into John Smith of AT Co. I see John quite often and from what I can gather seems to be doing quite well. Received cards this Christmas from John Ardison, John Anderson, Make Batteli (Hqs. Co.), Also Ed. Verstraete (H Co.) Geo. Buscaglia (B. Co.) Jim Shaw (M. yCo.) Andy Wolchok, Bob Krolage (M. Co.) and Pete Fotio and Tony Campo of M. Company.

From Theresa, Wisconsin, we heard from Rudolph Heinecke. We were informed that Rudolph is still trugging along following a single path. If any of his old friends are around his part of the state. Rudolph would like them to stop in and say "Hello!"

R. D. Wright of 1601 Biscayne Drive, Hamilton, Ohio, drops us a line to inform us of the following: "Reading the Octofoil is like having your old friends in your living room. It sure gives a guy the dope on quite a lot of the old boys. I was in the same company with Bill Quincy and sure was sorry to hear of his bad luck. I notice that the next reunion will be held in Chicago and believe me I am planning to attend this one. I am putting a request for Walter Morris to attend. Frank Fazio seems to be active in the organization and it sure is nice to know that men like Frank are around working to keep this old outfit together. I am working for the A.E.C. in Cincinnati. I am married and have a son who is nine

years old. Would like to hear more about the boys in H. Company of the 47th. I am sending a picture of me and my family... See you all in Chicago.



Wilfred Thornton of 515 E. Du-bail Ave., South Bend 14, Indiana, tells us that he wants to see some of the lads from M. Company of the 60th Infantry in Chicago cause he's going to be there.

Abe Feder of 67-40 Booth Street Forest Hills 75, N. Y., sent the Octofoil two very interesting articles from his files. We thought they were interesting enough to reprint. Each article has a great history story to tell... The first article was a New York Times release of February 5, 1943. The second article was printed by the New York Times in April 1945.

### Nazi Files Were Found in Chateaux in Harz Mountains By First Army

American Troops in April, 1945, Captured Papers That Baron, Eye on History, Refused to Burn as Berlin Ordered By SHEPARD STONE

When the Ninth Division of the First United States Army captured the German Foreign Office documents in April, 1945, many GI's wondered why anyone should get excited over stacks of paper when cities, towns, palaces, hotels and wine-cellar were falling by the hundreds. The good judgment and discipline of some of the men and officers saved this great documentary collection for the future.

The documents, covering the period 1871-1944, were told, were captured in four chateaux near the Harz Mountain village of Degenerhausen in central Germany. The chateaux had obviously been chosen by the Wilhelmstrasse for their seclusion. The evergreen forests of the Harz concealed them from raiders above. On the ground a disintegrating German army put up little resistance in the area.

Inside one chateau the documents were carefully stacked in rooms on the ground floor, neatly packaged, each bundle carrying a mysterious number. There was nothing to indicate the "gold" inside the brown wrappers. A German Foreign Office activist, a Baron von Griesheim, hovered anxiously near the documents. He had a master catalogue and he knew where to find the thousands of documents. He was indispensable; wherever the documents went there went Baron von Griesheim.

This chateau was owned by a Baroness, name forgotten, who spoke almost perfect English. She said she had many English relatives and she asked permission to show us a sealed letter in her possession. Dated November, 1942, or thereabouts it read something like this: "The Baroness X is a friend of mine. She is not a Nazi. I have been a guest in this house. I hope

that she will be courteously treated if the Americans or British overrun this area." The letter was signed by P. G. Wodehouse, at that time living in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Baron von Griesheim showed us a telegram he had received from Berlin a few days earlier. It was an order to destroy immediately the contents of certain rooms. What had he done? The Baron stood erect and said:

"To fool a few stupid Nazis stationed here I burned some old newspapers. But the documents I did not touch. I believe they must be saved so that the historian of the future may determine the facts and the responsibility for this terrible war."

We found only a few of the packages. The first document I saw was an original letter sent by Petain to Hitler, dated early August 1944, three weeks before Paris was liberated, in which the old Marshall begged the Nazi dictator declare Paris an open city and save it from destruction.

There were, of course, documents of far greater importance. The secret records covering the Hitler years, the exchange between Berlin and London during the Chamberlain years, and the documents now being published on German-Russian negotiations in 1939. Among the American troops there were a few who, excited over the find, wanted to stop the war and sit down for a few months to read the mysteries of pre-war and war-time diplomacy.

That could not be done. Immediate steps had to be taken to safeguard the documents from a possible German attempt to recapture or burn them and to anticipate other eventualities. The First Army prepared immediately to divert 200 trucks to transfer the records from the Harz to the castle at Marburg, far behind the front lines.

There was a delay. Supreme Headquarters (SHAEP) sent forward a message that nothing was to be done until a two-man State Department-British Foreign Office team had checked to see that there was no mistake about the identity of the documents. The two-man team arrived, the gentlemen were satisfied, protocol was satisfied and the documents were later carefully loaded on the trucks and stored at Marburg. Baron von Griesheim went along.

Later the documents were transferred again. This time they went back to Berlin, where at Tempelhof historians have recently been working on them.

## 1956 Hotel Site

the best we know how or can find out about. We are only interested in proving and reaffirming our sole contention, that Chicago, is the friendliest place in the world.

Later issues of the Octofoil will give you more specifics regarding our plans for entertaining you and making your stay as pleasant as possible. For example we are currently working on a baby sitting plan, good map directions for getting directly into the downtown area, cut rate parking, special children's rates, Special children's rates for the banquet, program for ladies entertainment, an elaborate plan for the Memorial Service, and a host of other things that we have discussed at our meetings. Remember, in July, all roads lead to Chicago whether it be via airway, railroad or turnpike... Remember the dates, July 26, 27 and 28, 1956 the Morrison Hotel the Ninth Division Convention...

## 26 FA Notes

by Joe McKenzie

Another Joyful and Happy Christmas season has passed. More than ever the boys of Service Battery 26 FA remembered me with that old but always welcome greeting "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

A few days after the dawn of the New Year, Almighty God called my mother from this earth. She died quietly and peacefully on January 5th.

Men of other units reading the following list of names might think that they were copied from a battery roster. Honest, I received a Christmas card from every one of them signed in their name or by their wives for the men folks who were busy making that green stuff at time and one half.

Richard M. Hill now of 1619 South 14th St., Las Vegas, Nev., Isadore Blitzstein, John Murray, Peter Greco, Louie England, Arthur Sheffler, Harold Huber, John Brazil, Warren Estep, Robert LaDez, Paul Griffin, Edward Kral, Robert Porter, Alex Wilcopolski, Elmer Roscoe, William Bongiorno, Everett Grigsby, Lewis Orticari, William Lapsley, Burial Lareau, Clement LeBlanc now of 20 West St., Beverly Farms, Mass., Carl Lucas, George Wilkinson, Frank Grutzis, Quintino Pergiovanni, Jerome Langer, Joseph Bolow, Charles Zablow, Raymond Weaver, Louis Truscello, John Quinn, Joseph D. Mosier now of Box 394, Aroma Park, Ill., Robert Hamilton, Paul Fri-bush, Earl Landon, Harry Fry, James Boyle and William Andrews sent those very nice greetings to me.

Theodore Schmidt of Hdqtrs. 26 FA sent a very nice Christmas greeting. I did not know Ted (as he was called) while at Ft. Bragg and had less opportunity to meet him while overseas. Our meeting was one the like of which you read in story books. It happened in Pittsburgh, the first weekend in July 1949, the fourth annual Ninth Division Convention was in session and Mrs. McKenzie and I were on our honeymoon.

After a long tiresome train ride from New York we finally got settled in the Hotel Wm. Penn. Then our thoughts turned to food. The coffee shop in the hotel was closed so out we went to brave the elements in a strange city. While wandering about the city in quest for food and at a moment while passing under a street lamp we heard a loud voice from the other side of the street say "Hey Service Battery 26 Field." What a feeling. Nine Hundred miles from home and we are spotted by the unknown. My wife and I started to cross the street and were met half way by a man who introduced himself as Ted Schmidt Hdqtrs. 26 FA. Since that time we have met Ted on several occasions and really enjoy his friendship.

Warren Estep wrote a note for the first time since we parted back in 1945. Keep it up Warren.

Dick Hill and his hot trumpet have moved from San Diego to Las Vegas. The night spots in California were too quiet for him.

### Last Call

Howard was killed instantly. Howard leaves his widow with two girls, one of whom is 14 months old. Howard was an active member of the Association."

# New England Chapter News

By Vic Campisi

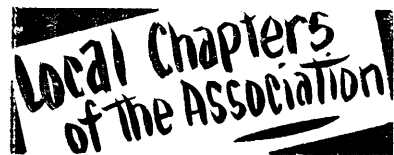
## ICY ROADS HURT ATTENDANCE

Freezing rain and icy highways presented extremely hazardous driving conditions which kept attendance disappointingly low.

## OLD FAITHFULS ATTEND

Those who attended are part of the heart and guts of the N.E. Chapter. Come hell or high water, you can count on them regularly attending meetings, functions, and performing such services as are required and asked of them.

Noted by your scribe at the



### New York Chapter

Sec. Dom. Miele  
Grand Central P.O. Box  
N.Y., N.Y.

Meeting place:  
Gerdes Restaurant  
112 East 18th St., N.Y. 3, N.Y.  
Tel.: GR 7-9817

Meeting Time:  
1st Frid. of each Month

### Phila. Chapter

Ray Connolly  
Krewstown, above Walsh Rd.  
Phila., Pa.

Meeting: 3d Monday every month  
P.R.R. Amer. Leg. Post 204  
3202-04 Chestnut St.  
Phila., Pa.

### Buffalo Chapter

Sec. Henry J. R. Golabiecki  
265 Cambridge Ave.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

### Northern Ohio Chapter

Sec: William C. Mauser  
6632 Bliss Ave.  
Cleveland 3, Ohio  
Endicott 1-1007

### Detroit Chapter

Sec: Robert J. De Sandy  
1685 Faircourt  
Gross Pointe Woods 30, Mich.

### Twin Cities Chapter

Sec: Richard W. Sims  
3932 Brunswick  
St. Louis Park, Minn.  
Phone Wh 3311  
Meeting — New Years Eve

### New England Chapter

Sec. T. J. Boyle  
39 Hall Avenue  
Somerville, Mass.  
Meeting: Y.D. Club  
200 Hunting Avenue  
Boston, Mass.

### Columbus Chapter

Sec: Glenn O Moore  
22 East Gay St.  
Columbus, Ohio

### Illinois Chapter

Ted Matusik  
2058 W. 76 Street  
Chicago, Ill.  
Meeting place: 3346 N. Springfield  
Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
Second Friday of the month.

### Capital Chapter

Sec: Anthony B. Micke  
7 Underwood Place, N.W.  
Washington 12, D.C.

### Pittsburgh Chapter

Sec. William Palady  
322-31st Street  
McKeesport, Pa.

1956 Chicago Convention  
Chairman

Frank Ozart  
2241 S. Marshall Blvd.  
Chicago 23, Ill.

Ted Matusik  
2058 W. 76 Street  
Chicago, Ill.

meeting were Leo Stier, Fred D'Amore, Sid Levison John McLaughlin, Tom Boyle, Si Garber, and Ed McGrath.

Missed were such other stalwarts as Chick Lewis, Pete Cusick, George Renna, Ed Shea, Ronnie Murphy, and Matty Mulholland.

## CARD PARTY, FREE REFRESHMENTS AT EXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday night, February 25, at the Yankke Division (YD) Club, 200 Huntington Ave., Boston, and will be highlighted by a card party and free refreshments. Mark that date on your calendar now and be sure to attend and enjoy a sociable evening.

## PERSONNEL NOTES FROM NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Taps Sound for Gen. Irwing:—

9th Divisioners are mourning the recent death of Lt. Gen. (Ret.) S. LeRoy Irwin whose brilliant war record includes outstanding service with the 9th Division. A detailed and interesting account of his distinguished career was reported by Stan Cohen in the December issue of the Octofoil.

This editor, while employed as a chief news and information writer in a government information office, met the late Gen. Irwin in Bremerhaven, Germany, in July 1952, and reported the following to Stars and Stripes:

"Lt Gen. S. LeRoy Irwin, former USFA CG, left here today for the U.S. where he will terminate his 37-year Army career which began when he was commissioned a cavalry second lieutenant after graduating from West Point in 1915.

"Irwin's retirement was brought about by an illness which hospitalized him last March. He was succeed April 20 in the command he had held since October 1950 by Maj. Gen. George P. Hayes, former deputy high commissioner for Germany.

"Irwin compiled a brilliant war record in World War II, participating in a half-dozen major battle of the Bulge. At the end of World War II, he was commanding the XII Corps when it smashed its way into Austria and made contact with the Soviet troops."

Now taps have sounded for Gen. Irwin, but the memory of him and his accomplishments will live forever.

Gen. Van Houten in New Assignment:—Major General John G. Van Houten has been reassigned from CG of the 8th Infantry Division, Ft. Carson, Colorado, to CG, Military District of Washington, D.C.

This writer recalls the day he arrived with other infantry replacements at a 60th Infantry rendezvous in Germany when Van Houten, then a Colonel was commanding officer. He welcomed us with a spirited, inspirational pep talk but the statement which stands out above all others was his assignment that "each of you kill two of the enemy."

Van Houten explained that if each American infantryman killed two combatant Germans, victory would inevitably and soon be ours. It figured.

Little wonder that under his dynamic leadership, the 60th Infantry was such a fighting outfit and renowned as the "Go Devils".

Former 60th 1st. Sgt. Looks For "War Records in Germany:—A Reuters news dispatch in the December 26th edition of the Boston Globe features the plans of a former G Co., 60th Inf. 1st Sgt. to recover war records he buried during the Battle of the Bulge. Detelined Wuerzburg, West Ger-

many, Dec. 24 (Reuters), the article says:

"M Sgt Vernon Mugerditchian of Waukegan, Ill., now in Germany with the United States 10th Infantry Division, is awaiting an opportunity to recover some of the wartime records of the 60th Infantry Regiment buried in Belgium during the Ardennes "Battle of the Bulge" in 1944.

"He believes that he is the only man who knows where they are.

"Mugerditchian was a first sergeant of Co. G, of the 60th Regiment when it was overrun by the Germans during the battle. All of the men in the company were either killed or taken prisoner.

"He buried some of his personal belongings and the unit's casualty reports for two weeks beneath a tree at the edge of a forest.

"Mugerditchian was taken prisoner. He now is serving with Co. M of the 87th Regiment."

## Bender Hospitalized Again:—

George Bender, just recently released from the VA Hospital on Huntington Ave., Boston, after a lengthy stay there, has been readmitted to that institution, it was reported by Sid Levison at the last meeting. The N.E. Chapter joins George's host of friends in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery. A card or visit to George at the VA Hospital will do lots to cheer him up.

## "Colonel" Coe Checks In:—

"Colonel" Verne D. Coe, 59 High st, Portland, Maine, former Corporal with 'E' Co., 60th, celebrated his 4th wedding anniversary December 10. Verne and the Missus have one child, a 1½ year-old daughter. Verne works nights on the railroad and sells sporting goods in his spare time. During the war, Verne gained a measure of fame within his unit as a "souvenir" wrist watch collector. It was a rare day, indeed, when the "Colonel" didn't have watches up to his elbows —on both arms!

Wo 1st Gerry Overman?—Capt. Gerald B. Overman, not content with the fine fighting job he contributed as an infantry platoon Sgt. with 'E' Co., 60th Inf., volunteered for combat duty in Korea during the recent hostilities.

When last heard from late in 1954, Capt. Overman was recuperating from severe combat wounds. His last known address was c/o Cyrus Overman, Hereford Cattle, Mountain Level Farm, RFD 2, Winston, Virginia. If anyone has further information on him, please write to this editor.

Paging Charlie Giblin:— And while we're looking for lost soldiers, anyone know the whereabouts of Charlie Giblin, another former 'E' Co., 60th Inf. man? His last known address was 163 Pearl st., Providence, R.I.. Recent mail has been returned with the notation "Moved — Left No address."

Campisi Reappointed:— Vic Campisi, 10 Lesley ave., Somerville, Mass., has been reappointed deputy tax collector there. Since his original appointment in Feb. 1954, Campisi has collected more than \$80,000.00 in delinquent taxes. Another former 'E' Co., 60th Inf. man, he also is second vice president of the Massachusetts Deputy Tax Collectors Association.

Condolences to Joe McKenzie:— The N. E. Chapter extends its condolences and sympathy to Joe McKenzie, formerly of Service Battery, 26th Field, whose mother died recently.

Sgt. Budrick Send Greetings:— Sgt. Steven Budrick recently sent greetings to the N. E. Chapter. Budrick now is stationed with the 11th Ordnance Co. (DAS), Ft. Dix,

New Jersey.

## MacDougall Record Member:—

Can any other Chapter top this? The New England Chapter boasts of having a member some 20000 miles distant. The record setting member is Melvin MacDougall, Box 181, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Mac, who complimented Sound Off in a recent letter to the Chapter, said he's always had a soft spot in his heart for Boston because that's where he landed at the end of World War II. Nice to have you with us, Mac, and being some 2000 miles away, you don't have to explain why you don't attend our regular monthly meetings.

## Col. Adams Drops a Line:—

That's the understatement of the year. Lt. Col. John C. L. Adams, former 39th Inf. Co., recently sent an "eleventeen" page mimeographed and very interesting news letter about the activities of the Adams family. The experiences they have undergone in business, aviation, and Latin America, is enough to fill an adventure-packed book. The Colonel can be reached by writing to him at Box 2070 Ancon, Panama, Canal Zone.

## ODDS AND ENDS FROM NEW ENGLAND

Sound-Off Complimented:—Sound Off, the N. E. Chapter's monthly newsletter, recently received an editorial pat-on-the-back from the Italian News, a weekly Boston newspaper, which took editorial note of this paper's expose of a new car racket and commented: "It's articles like this which makes your paper better than average."

## Thought For The Day:— States?

men who worry about divided Germany might have occasion to worry more if she were united, free, and belligerent. (Boston Globe).

## Next Meeting Feb. 25:—Don't

forget the next meeting scheduled for Saturday night, Feb. 25, at the YD Club, 200 Huntington ave., Boston. A card party and free refreshments highlight the program for the evening.

Auf Wiedersehen

# Pushing Back The Years

waged their usual whole-hearted defense and each foot gained was bought with blood. Enemy hold-outs infested every house and required smoke and hand grenade persuasion to make them give up, but Huechein was take and fully organized by night.

Meanwhile, the 3d Battalion's Company K cleared out the fortified factory strongpoint of Bovenberg and the battalion was free to advance as planned.

The 2d Battalion led the advance on the 25th, following up a three-minute artillery preparation to capture Wilhelmshoehe. Heavy fire failed to stop the battalion as it advanced over the muddy ground tunnel scheme. By the end of the day Company K had moved to protect the left flank of the 2d Battalion, while the 1st Battalion became positioned along the right flank, ready to launch an attack to the southeast on the 26th.

Half-way between the towns of Frenz and Langerwehe (to the southeast) lay the fortified Frenzerberg Castle, the 47th's objective on November 26th. Aided by the 32d Armored Battalion, the regiment planned to assault the castle from the south with Company F while the remainder of the battalion followed up the attack supported by tanks firing from the rear. Simultaneously, Company K was to work northeast along the railroad tracks and move against Frenzerberg as a protection for the 2d Battalion's left flank. When this attack got under way, the 1st Battalion — from its positions on the right of the 2d — was to attack and reduce an enemy strongpoint which was along the Weissweiler-Langerwehe road, about 600 yards northeast of Langerwehe.

Assault upon the fortified castle began at 10:45 A.M. with Company F mounting tanks and heading toward Frenzerberg.

## 9th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Stan Cohen, National Sec.-Treas.  
Post Office Box 66  
Livingston, New Jersey

Enclosed please find 1956 dues for:

Name ..... Serial No. ....

Street Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

I was a ( Battery ..... member of ( Company ..... Regiment ..... 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member .....	\$4.00 per year ( )
Sustaining Member .....	( )
THREE YEAR MEMBER .....	\$10.00 ( )
Life Membership .....	\$50.00 ( )
Octofoil Auto License Disc .....	\$ 1.00 ( )
Eight Stars to Victory .....	\$ 3.50 ( )

(Pictorial History of 9th Div. in Action)

Ladies Auxiliary Member .....	\$1.50 ( )
Decals .....	\$.25 apiece — 5 for \$1.00
Combat Route Map .....	\$.50
60th Infantry History .....	\$1.00

Please credit the following chapter:

Philadelphia ( )	Illinois ( )	EUCOM ( )
Buffalo ( )	Columbus ( )	Greater N. Y. ( )
Columbus ( )	Western, Penn. ( )	Wash., D.C. ( )
New England ( )	Northern Ohio ( )	Detroit ( )
Twin Cities ( )		

Explanation of Dues:

Non-Chapter member all payment of dues to Nat'l.  
Chapter Member: \$1.00 for chapter, \$3.00 to Nat'l.  
Ladies Auxiliary \$5.00 to chapter, \$1.00 to Nat'l.  
Three Year: \$3.00 to chapter, \$7.00 to Nat'l.  
Life Member: \$12.50 to chapter, \$37.50 to Nat'l.  
Sustaining Member: Chapter to receive 1/3 of amount over \$35.00, balance to National.